

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3 in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— A further aspect of the present invention relates to an optical ~~optical~~ cable comprising: —

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 18 in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— Figures 4 shows in detail the mould 307, comprising two halves 401 and 402, which are preferably complementary to each other in such a way that they can be placed in contact one to each other to form a longitudinal internal cavity, through which the assembly of the strength member and optical fibers is then caused to pass through during the coating process. The central area of the cavity includes a chamber 403 with a cylindrical cross section for the accumulation of the material forming the coating, an entry channel 404 with a circular cross section for the insertion of the optical fibers and strength member, and an exit channel 405 with a circular cross section through which the coated optical fibers and strength member emerge. —

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 4 in the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

— The carriage 305 is placed at one end of the guide 306. A first half of the mould is placed on the said carriage in such a way that the assembly 205 is positioned

exactly along the axis-A X. The second half of the mould is placed in contact with the first half to form the complete mould. In this condition, the assembly is inserted fully into the mould, and the liquid material is released by the dispenser 308 and passes through the channel 407 into the accumulation chamber 403 inside the mould, filling it completely. At the exit from the mould 307, the coating material is subjected to radiation curing by means of the two UV lamps 309, thus obtaining a joint having substantially the same diameter as the one of the optical core. —